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ABSTRACT

This monograph describes the preliminary findings of two studies concerning the experiences of low income women who attended college in Massachusetts. The first study, conducted in 1986, examined the combined effects of public assistance and student financial aid upon the lives of women who attended college. A 1990 study explored the assumption that higher education results in higher income levels for women. Results of the research suggest that recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) tend to be among the poorest of the older women in college and they tend to take the longest to graduate. Furthermore, a college degree in the liberal arts or a more technical or specialized field can enhance economic opportunity for low income women. The research also suggests that a college education increases satisfaction with work and life in general. Policy conflicts continue to exist with regard to older women in higher education, and further research remains to be undertaken. Eighteen endnotes are included and 28 references are attached. (SG)

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